

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04776 281551Z

54

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 L-03 EB-11 TRSE-00 SS-20 SP-03

NSC-07 OIC-04 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00

OMB-01 AID-20 PRS-01 OPIC-12 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7080

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MFM

SUBJ: MFM WORKING GROUP ON TRANSNATIONAL ENTERPRISES

REF: STATE 134734

1. SUMMARY: GOA REPORTS THAT ACTING AS PRO TEMPORE SECRETARIAT RE SUBJECT IT HAS CIRCULARIZED OTHER LAS AND RECEIVED ONLY FINE AFFIRMATIVE REPLIES AND, THEREFORE, FEELS NECESSARY MAJORITY LACKING TO CONVOKE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR JULY 8. GOA OPPOSES ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS DESIRED BY US AND TAKES EXCEPTION TO US INITIATIVE IN THIS FIELD. WHETHER JULY 8 MEETING CAN BE HELD APPEARS PROBLEMATIC. EMBASSY REQUIRES ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH GOA. END SUMMARY.

2. ECON COUNSELOR HAD APPOINTMENT ON OTHER SUBJECTS WITH UNDER-SECRETARIAT FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, FOREIGN MINISTRY, AFTERNOON JUNE 26 AND TOOK OCCASION TO DELIVER AIDE MEMOIRE BASED ON REFTTEL.

3. WHEN DISCUSSION ON OTHER SUBJECTS COMPLETED, DEPUTY TO UNDERSECRETARY, AMB PEREZ VILLAMIL, CALLED IN MINISTER JUAN FIGUERERO WHO STATED THAT HE MIGHT HAVE CONTACTED EMBASSY
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 04776 281551Z

EARLIER SAME DAY BUT LEARNING THAT AN APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN

MADE FOR AFTERNOON HE HAD WITHHELD DELIVERY TWO NOTES TO EMBASSY CONCERNING WORKING GROUP IN ORDER TO MAKE POSSIBLE SHORT DISCUSSION ON SUBJECT. WE BELIEVE NOTES WERE DRAFTED BY AND LARGE TO EXTENT REFLECT FIGUERERO'S IDEAS BUT THESE OBVIOUSLY HAVE RECEIVED APPROVAL OF HIS SUPERIORS.

4. FIRST NOTE REFERS TO EMBASSY'S AIDE MEMOIRE OF MAY 30 REQUESTING GOA AS PRO TEM SECRETARIAT OF MFM TO SECURE RESPONSE OTHER LAS ON ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF WORKING GROUP IN WASHINGTON ON JULY 8. NOTE STATES MINISTRY HAS CIRCULARIZED OTHER LAS BUT TO DATE HAS RECEIVED AFFIRMATIVE REPLIES ONLY FROM BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, CHILE, EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA. NOTE CONTINUES:

"TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TIME WHICH HAS GONE BY AND THE NEARNESS OF THE DATE PROPOSED FOR THE MEETING, THIS MINISTRY, AS SECRETARIAT PRO TEM OF MFM, BELIEVES THAT THE NECESSARY MAJORITY DOES NOT EXIST WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE PRO TEM SECRETARIAT TO PROCEED TO CONVOKE THE MEETING WITH ANY HOPE THAT THE DELEGATES WOULD ARRIVE AT SUCH A MEETING PREPARED FOR IT."

5. IN COMMENTS ON THIS NOTE, FIGUERERO POINTED OUT THAT HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO DELICATELY INDICATE THAT GOA IS DISTURBED BY THE FACT THAT THERE ARE APPARENTLY TWO SECRETARIATS IN CONNECTION WITH SUBJECT, THE OFFICIAL ONE HERE, AND THE OTHER IN THE US. PUT BLUNTLY, FIGUERERO INDICATED THE US IS IMPROPERLY HURRYING THE MATTER IN WAY WHICH GOA FINDS OBJECTIONABLE AND IS IMPROPERLY MOVING WITHOUT THE AGREEMENT OF THE OFFICIAL PRO TEM SECRETARIAT, THE ARGENTINE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

6. SECOND NOTE FROM FOREIGN OFFICE ALSO REFERS TO EMBASSY'S AIDE MEMOIRE OF MAY 30 AND CONTINUES THAT HAVING REASONABLY COMPLETED THE URGENT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER LAS REQUESTED BY US, GOA ALSO WISHES TO MAKE KNOWN ITS POSITION ON SUBJECT. THIS FOLLOWED BY FIVE POINTS WHICH, TRANSLATED, READ AS FOLLOWS:

"A) GOA BELIEVES IT IS NOT CONVENIENT TO MODIFY THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

"B) THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP NOT GENERAL BUT SPECIFIC AND RESTRICTIVE. OTHER INITIATIVES OF USG ON SUBJECT OF TRANSNATIONAL ENTERPRISES MADE KNOWN IN MEXICO AND WASHINGTON, SUCH AS THAT RELATING TO PROCEDURES FOR FACTFINDING, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 04776 281551Z

WERE EXPRESSLY LEFT OUT OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP.

"C) SETTING THE TIME FOR THE FIRST MEETING FOR THE WORKING GROUP, TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE PROJECTED BUENOS AIRES CONFERENCE, WAS BY ITSELF AN IMPORTANT DECISION BECAUSE IT REFLECTED THE INSISTENCE THAT LAS SHOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE DIFFERENT IDEAS AND PROPOSALS, INCLUDING THOSE THAT WOULD COME OUT OF THE REPORT OF UNSEC GEN PLUS THE DEBATES IN UNGA ON

THIS SUBJECT, AND ALSO THE RESULTS OF COORDINATING MEETINGS, ESPECIALLY THAT OF THE LAS WHICH SHOULD ALWAYS PRECEDE ANY ORDERLY DIALOGUE WITH THE USG. THE PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS (PRECEDING MFM) WAS EXPRESSLY REQUESTED BY GOA FOLLOWING INFORMAL CONSENSUS AMONG AL FORMINS IN THE SENSE THAT LAS WOULD HOLD COORDINATION MEETING IN MONTEVIDEO IN JANUARY, 1975.

"D) IN ANY CASE, IT SEEMS IMPROPER IN PRINCIPLE THAT A WORKING GROUP, WHATEVER ITS LEVEL, SHOULD HAVE POWERS TO MODIFY THE DECISIONS MADE BY THE MINISTERS IN WAYS SUCH AS THOSE WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN US OFFICIALS (BLOOMFIELD) AND OUR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND FROM THE PROPOSED AGENDA RECEIVED.

"E) GOA DOES NOT WISH INDICATE THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT THE DECISIONS ADOPTED IN WASHINGTON COULD BE MODIFIED IF ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS EXISTED TO ALLOW PRESUMPTION THAT A DIALOGUE WOULD RESULT WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN LA UNITY IN THE FIRST PLACE AND THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS IN LA/US DIALOGUE IN THE SECOND. HOWEVER (GOA DOES NOT SEE), THAT SUCH PRESUMPTION CAN BE MADE ON BASIS OF FACTORS FOR JUDGEMENT AVAILABLE NOW. ON THE CONTRARY, GOA BELIEVES THAT A HURRIED MEETING, EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD BE OF THE PREPARATORY CHARACTER, MAY PREJUDICE THESE OBJECTIVES. BECAUSE OF THE FOREGOING, GOA DOES NOT FAVOR THE PROPOSAL AND BELIEVES IT WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE OBJECTIVES STATED (IMPROVED LA UNITY AND DIALOGUE WITH US) TO ATTEND A REUNION OF THAT TYPE IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. GOA IS DISPOSED TO REMAIN CONTINUOUSLY IN CONSULTATION ON THIS SUBJECT WITH USG AND EXAMINE WHETHER ANY MODIFICATION OF THE FACTORS MENTIONED WOULD JUSTIFY A CHANGE IN GOA POSITION. IN ANY CASE, PRECISE KNOWLEDGE OF THE RESULTS WHICH THE USG EXPECTS WOULD RESULT FROM THE WORKING GROUP'S ACTIVITY FOR PRESENTATION TO MFM IN MARCH, 1975 WOULD BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO GOA."

IN DISCUSSING SECOND NOTE, FIGUERERO INDICATED GOA AND OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BUENOS 04776 281551Z

LAS HAD APPROACHED AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH THIS WORKING GROUP WITH MANY RESERVATIONS. THEY THEREFORE HOLD VIEW THAT TERMS OF REFERENCE VERY LIMITED "TO PREPARING DOCUMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT MNCS," AND THEY DO NOT INTZQD NOW TO ALLOW US TO LEAD OR DOMINATE WORKING GROUP ACTION, ESPECIALLY BY AMPLIFYING TERMS OF REFERENCE IN WAYS WHICH MEET US REQUIREMENTS RATHER THAN THEIR DESIRES. SPEAKING FOR WHATEVER EFFECT, FIGUERERO MAINTAINED IT IS ALSO NOT IN US INTEREST TO PUSH TOO HARD FOR EARLY MEETINGS WHERE UNPREPARED DELEGATIONS WILL ARRIVE WITHOUT STUDYING POSITIONS WITH RESULT VOTING LINEUPS WOULD FOLLOW GENERAL POLITICAL AFFINITIES PRO AND CON US WITH PARTICIPATING COUNTRY LATER MODIFYING THESE POSITIONS.

7. FIGUERERO DID NOT STRESS POINT BUT SECOND NOTE INDICATES CLEARLY GOA DOES NOT INTEND TAKE PART IN MEETING JULY 8, WHILE

FIRST NOTE EVEN INDICATES THAT AS SECRETARIAT PRO TEM IT WILL NOT OFFICIALLY CONVOKE WORKING GROUP MEETING. FIGUERERO APPARENTLY HAS HEARD THROUGH ARGENTINE EMBASSY THAT DEPARTMENT BELIEVES MAJORITY OF LAS HAVE UNOFFICIALLY AGREED TO MEETING. (THIS POINT WAS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH REMARKS CONCERNING TWO SECRETARIATS.) EMBASSY SEES SITUATION AS DELICATE AND DIFFICULT. EMBASSY WILL AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT ON ANY REPLY TO BE MADE TO GOA.

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